



PRESS RELEASE

November 6, 2006

Veterans Memorial Dedication set for 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. November 11, 2006

Dedication of a new Veterans Memorial in the City of Franklin is scheduled for Saturday, November 11, 2006. The memorial is located adjacent to the Franklin Public Library at 9151 West Loomis Road. All residents are invited to attend.

The memorial service will start at 10:45 a.m. and is expected to conclude at 11:45 a.m. It will feature boy scouts escorting a member of each branch of service who will raise that branches' flag above the memorial. The Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and POW-MIA will all be represented. There will be guest speakers and a brief moment of silence at 11:00 in commemoration of the armistice signed at that moment in 1918 ending World War I.

The memorial is the result of the efforts of Derek McElroy, a freshman at Franklin High School, who undertook the project as his Eagle Scout project. In order to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement within the Boy Scouts of America, the individual is required to do a public service project. Derek wanted to do something that would last a long time and that would be patriotic. Given his family's extensive military background, including a father retired from the Army and a brother in the service and scheduled to go to Iraq in March, the idea of a memorial to all of the branches of service appealed to him.

The project proved to be a major undertaking requiring over \$22,000 in donations from individuals and businesses in Franklin. Including all of the planning and fundraising, it took nearly a year to complete. The most noticeable aspect of the memorial is a series of seven flag poles with the American Flag flanked by a flag representing each of the five branches of service and the POW/MIA flag. The centerpiece is a six-sided granite pedestal with a dedication plaque. On either side of the pedestal, engraved dedication bricks, purchased as donations, are set into the concrete of the memorial.

The City of Franklin is pleased to have provided the site and site preparation work in order to help make this memorial come to fruition. It is well placed within the civic center complex and will provide a poignant but uplifting back drop to the Fourth of July parade route.

Residents are encouraged to attend and to celebrate the dedication of this memorial, to observe Veterans Day, and to congratulate Derek on his outstanding accomplishment.

For more information contact:

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